

SENATE No. 707

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Rodrigues

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to college tuition and fees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 707

By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 707) of Michael J. Rodrigues and Alan Silvia for legislation relative to college and universities tuition and fees. Higher Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to college tuition and fees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2015 is hereby amended by striking out section
2 36 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 SECTION 36. Section 9 of said chapter 15A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
4 striking out, in lines 75 to 79, inclusive, the words “In the case of the university, the council shall
5 review the recommendations of the board of trustees relative to tuition rates at said university
6 and its campuses. Said tuition rates shall be subject to the approval of the council” and inserting
7 in place thereof the following words:-

8 Tuition rates shall be adjusted annually commencing each July 1 by the growth of the
9 annualized percentage rate and shall be subject to the approval of the council; provided,
10 however, that tuition rates at the University of Massachusetts shall be subject to section 1B of
11 chapter 75 and shall not require the approval of the council. For the purposes of this section, the
12 words “annualized percentage rate” shall mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage

13 increase or decrease, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston
14 metropolitan area over the preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of
15 the United States department of labor.

16 SECTION 2. Section 9 of Chapter 15A of the general laws, as most recently amended by
17 Section 36 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015, is hereby amended by striking out the following
18 words:- “Said guidelines shall be based upon a study of tuition and fees which shall be conducted
19 by the council, and which shall be authorized by statute; provided, that fees as defined by said
20 guidelines, shall not exceed twenty-five percent of total student charges for the state colleges and
21 the community colleges” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

22 Said guidelines shall be based upon a study of tuition and fees which shall be conducted
23 by the council, and which shall be authorized by statute; provided, however, that fees as defined
24 by said guidelines shall be adjusted annually commencing each July 1 by the growth of the
25 annualized percentage rate. For the purposes of this section, the words “annualized percentage
26 rate” shall mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage increase or decrease, if any, in
27 the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston metropolitan area over the
28 preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States
29 department of labor.

30 SECTION 3. Section 1B of chapter 75 of the general laws, as most recently amended by
31 Section 73 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b)
32 and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

33 “(b) The board of trustees shall fix and establish student charges for the university. In-
34 state tuition and mandatory student charges shall preserve affordability for residents of the

35 commonwealth. Out-of-state student charges shall appropriately balance the financial needs of
36 the university with the need to be competitive with peer institutions and, to the extent possible,
37 cover, at a minimum, the actual cost of a student's education. Tuition shall comprise the majority
38 portion of student charges. In establishing student charges, the board of trustees shall consider
39 factors including: (i) the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the
40 United States Department of Labor; (ii) the Higher Education Price Index calculated by
41 Commonfund; (iii) tuition and fee rates at peer institutions; (iv) collective bargaining costs; (v)
42 total support from the commonwealth, including direct appropriations and support for capital
43 construction and maintenance; and (vi) other relevant data and measures. The board shall adjust
44 annually commencing each July 1 in-state student charges by the growth of the annualized
45 percentage rate. For the purposes of this section, the words "annualized percentage rate" shall
46 mean the percentage amount equal to the percentage increase or decrease, if any, in the
47 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the Boston metropolitan area over the
48 preceding 12 months, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States
49 department of labor.